



General Assembly

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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs
and other elections: election of 47 members of
the Human Rights Council**

**Note verbale dated 17 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of
Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the United Nations General Assembly and has the honour to inform him that the Tunisian Government has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council at the elections to be held on 9 May 2006. An aide-memoire containing Tunisia's pledges is enclosed herewith.

The Mission of Tunisia would appreciate it if Tunisia's candidature as well as the enclosed aide-memoire on Tunisia's pledges are posted on the relevant General Assembly website.



Annex to the note verbale dated 17 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

15 April 2006

Aide-memoire relating to the candidacy of Tunisia to the Human Rights Council

1 Tunisia's commitment to human rights, which has never ceased to gain strength, is rooted in its historic heritage and further reinforced by political will, strongly enhanced since 7 November 1987.

2 Tunisia, which has supported the establishment of the Human Rights Council, is convinced that this body will bring an important contribution to the strengthening of international achievements in the field of human rights and will increase the international consensus regarding all aspects related to the promotion and the protection of all human rights.

3 Tunisia is a party to all international and regional conventions on human rights and is fully associated with all endeavours by the United Nations Member States aimed at the promotion, protection and consolidation of human rights. This commitment was materialized by the establishment, at the national level, of appropriate mechanisms for the promotion and dissemination of the culture of human rights through the enactment of a comprehensive legal framework in order to avoid any form of violation of human rights.

4 Tunisia has devised and implemented a human rights approach which is global, progressive and dynamic. Such an approach guarantees fundamental freedoms and human rights in their universal, global, complementary and interdependent dimensions.

5 Tunisia has adopted a number of measures aimed at strengthening the rule of law and ensuring the fundamental freedoms and rights of the human being, thus leading to a harmonious development of the individual and the society as a whole. The promotion of democracy and political pluralism, supported by undisputed economic and social achievements and by a dynamic and active civil society, all made it possible for Tunisia to attain an advanced position among emerging countries on the human development scale.

6 The promotion and the protection of the rights of the woman and child as well as policies and programmes extending to all social categories, with no exclusion, the benefits of development enjoyed by the country, make Tunisia among pioneer States in ensuring social rights.

7 National policies adopted by Tunisia since independence in the promotion of the rights of women and gender equality guarantee that all components of Tunisian society enjoy equal rights and equitable opportunities to reach personal fulfilment and to participate actively in economic and social life.

8 Convinced that peace, security, development and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, Tunisia is, at the international level, a party to instruments and conventions on the promotion and protection of human

rights and plays an active role within regional and international forums for the promotion of human rights.⁶

9. Tunisia actively participates in the work of the United Nations and regional bodies dealing with human rights and cooperates with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. It has always honoured its commitment to present its periodic reports under the conventions it has ratified.

10. Tunisia actively participates in regional and international efforts to make the values of tolerance, solidarity and dialogue among cultures and civilizations a reality, thus promoting understanding between peoples on the basis of respect for religions and beliefs.

11. Tunisia, which has actively participated in the debate concerning the role of the newly established Human Rights Council, is firmly convinced that this body, which is of particular importance, will undoubtedly contribute to the promotion of a global and consensual approach to human rights on the basis of respect for human dignity and international law.

12. Tunisia will fully contribute to the efficient functioning of the Human Rights Council and to international efforts aimed at promoting the culture of human rights throughout the world.

⁶ Tunisia is a party to the following main instruments:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention against Discrimination in Education
- Slavery Convention
- Protocol amending the Slavery Convention, signed on 7 December 1953
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery.